

EPA REGION III

◇ Office of Public Affairs

◇ **Early Bird**

Headlines

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

MORNING HOT LIST

Marino meets with Dimock residents to hear drilling

woes

SCRANTON TIMESDIMOCK TWP. - The Republican candidate for the 10th Congressional District seat was practically in his opponent's backyard Monday to discuss natural gas issues. Tom Marino met with about a dozen residents from across Susquehanna County who say they have been adversely affected by natural gas drilling. "I'm not here for political reasons. I'm here because I was asked to be here," Mr. Marino told the group as they gathered around tables at the Dimock Baptist Church - a few hundred yards from Democratic Rep. Chris Carney's home. For more than 90 minutes, Mr. Marino listened to residents describe what has happened to their lives since natural gas companies moved into the Marcellus Shale region. Mr. Marino said his main purpose at the meeting was to get information. By the end of the session, Mr. Marino said he has a lot to learn."

Environmental group stresses improved community planning

DELAWARE WAVELEWES -- Environmental and planning experts joined with local officials to discuss the need for better community planning at the Sustainable Delaware 2010 conference. The event, which brings together an interdisciplinary roster of presenters, addresses all aspects of climate change, energy use and sustainable living. But smart growth was on the minds of speakers as the two-day conference, hosted for the last five years by the American Institute of Architects, kicked off last week. ... Marie Holman, of the Environmental Protection Agency, said an interagency partnership between the EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S.

Department of Transportation has worked toward creating sustainable communities."The goal is not to subsidize sprawl," she said. While Holman said population has remained stable in the U.S. in recent decades, it has consumed more and more land.

Philadelphia Water Department taking measured approach to fracking

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Despite calls from anti-drilling activists to take an aggressive stand against natural gas development, the Philadelphia Water Department is defending its measured approach to protecting the city's drinking water from Marcellus Shale gas drilling. <> Water Department officials say they are concerned about environmental degradation from drilling in the Upper Delaware River - about 60 percent of the city's 1.5 million residents drink water drawn from the Delaware. But they say gas drilling is only one of many potential threats that the city must manage. "We're not jumping out of our seats, pulling our hair out, about the Marcellus Shale," said Christopher S. Crockett, director of planning and research. "We want to take a constructive, scientific approach, not polarize people." The department's quiet strategy will be scrutinized Tuesday when City Council conducts a hearing to examine the perils and promise of Marcellus drilling.

Bill to tax natural-gas extraction advances

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRERHARRISBURG - The state House moved one step closer on Monday to imposing a tax on the extraction of natural gas from the lucrative Marcellus Shale reserve. The Appropriations Committee, voting 18-15 along party lines, passed a much-anticipated bill that Democratic sponsors said would bring in hundreds of millions of dollars in needed revenue. The action clears the way for a floor vote as early as Tuesday; the measure could be considered by the Senate later this week. But Senate Republican leader Dominic Pileggi of Delaware County said the bill in its current form stood no chance of passage in the GOP-controlled upper chamber.

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PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER Bristol Township, whose beleaguered waste-treatment works have resulted in two criminal convictions and ongoing allegations of illegal wastewater and sewage discharges, reached a settlement Monday with federal and state authorities. The township will pay \$226,000 in fines for violations dating back to 2006. It also agreed to a consent decree requiring improvements to the operation and management of its treatment works. Federal and state authorities had accused the township of repeated violations of federal and state clean-water laws since December 2006. The alleged violations included discharge of effluent into the Neshaminy Creek, sewage leaks onto a private driveway and public roads, overflows of wastewater and sewage, maintenance violations, and deliberate processing of wastewater far beyond the allowed capacity of the treatment works.

Council to accept \$200K federal grant

PARKERSBURG NEWSPARKERSBURG - A federal grant to assess and identify potential contamination from a former marble plant may eventually lead to development. Tonight city council will consider a resolution authorizing Mayor Bob Newell to accept a \$200,000 hazardous substance Brownfield assessment grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Planning Director Rickie Yeager said the money will be used for phase I and II assessment of the former Vitro Agate site. "Phase I and II will tell us what is there and then give us a plan as to how to clean it up." Yeager said cleanup would not be performed by the city, but by the landowner. "It will be up to him to decide what to do," Yeager said. In addition to the \$200,000 grant, Yeager said the city has been awarded a \$12,000 focus grant from the Benedum Foundation and the Brownfield Assistance Grant. Yeager said the money will be used to develop concepts of use for the property, as well as economic study.

The Shale Game Part 2: Water

WHYY (blog) Natural gas has been trapped deep below the surface of Pennsylvania for eons. But only in the past two years has the industry begun in earnest to tap the rich gas reserves of the Marcellus Shale — a layer of rock thousands of feet down that runs from New York to West Virginia. Gas companies sunk nine hundred wells into the Pennsylvania Marcellus this year. With this new area in play, residents have a lot of questions. The most frequently asked: what will be the impact on their water. In part two of our series *The Shale Game*, WHYY's health and science reporter Kerry Grens searches for the answer.

PENNSYLVANIA

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Destroyer Arthur W. Radford to become reef off New Jersey coast

The end will come slowly, with whooshing water, jets of escaping air, and the creaks and groans of metal. The 563-foot Arthur W. Radford, a decommissioned Navy destroyer with 26 years of service, will slip beneath the waves off Cape May Point by early November to begin a new mission as the longest vessel ever turned into an East Coast artificial reef.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS

Activists' suit seeks ban on monitoring of 'peaceable' groups

The Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition says intelligence bulletins put an 'impermissible chill' on the rights of those who were targeted. An environmental activism group filed a federal lawsuit against Pennsylvania's embattled homeland security chief on Monday, claiming its constitutional rights were trampled by unjustified state-prompted surveillance of Marcellus Shale drilling opponents. The suit by the Luzerne County-based Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition comes weeks after revelations that a firm hired by the state to monitor possible terrorist activity was also filing intelligence bulletins on the activities of groups concerned about the environmental impact of the natural gas drilling.

Letter: State must be certain to put environment first

OK, it's bad enough that the natural gas industry can pollute our environment. Now, it's polluting our airwaves with its new advertising campaign portraying itself as saviors for Pennsylvania's farming industry.

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE

Pennsylvania House panel suggests 'highest shale tax in US' HARRISBURG -- A key House committee approved a Marcellus Shale extraction gas tax with a significant tax rate Monday, causing a Wexford-based industry group to say it is "stunned" that legislators want to give Pennsylvania the highest tax rate for shale gas in the nation. The House Appropriations Committee voted to approve the gas extraction tax, with most Democrats in favor and all Republicans opposed. It would impose a levy of 39 cents per thousand cubic feet (MCF) of gas extracted. Legislators hope to generate at least \$200 million, which would be split among the state's general fund, localities with Marcellus drilling and environmental costs. The proposed tax could come up for discussion in the House as early as today, with a vote perhaps this week. It would still have to be approved by the Senate, which is controlled by Republicans, who are unlikely to approve the tax in its present form. They favor a tax more like the one in Arkansas, at 1.5 percent of the dollar value of gas extracted.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Corbett, Onorato square off on personal, shale gas taxes HARRISBURG -- In their first gubernatorial debate, Attorney General Tom Corbett described Dan Onorato, the Allegheny County executive, as a "career politician" who tells "you half the story." Onorato, meanwhile, touted his record running Allegheny County and said he doesn't need to take the "hokey" anti-tax pledge Corbett embraces. Last night's debate in the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center featured Corbett, a Shaler Republican and Onorato, a Brighton Heights Democrat, before the state Chamber of Business and Industry's annual dinner. A second debate is scheduled next month in Pittsburgh.

Mosquitoes with West Nile virus set Pennsylvania record

SCRANTON TIMES

Marino meets with Dimock residents to hear drilling woes DIMOCK TWP. - The Republican candidate for the 10th Congressional District seat was practically in his opponent's backyard Monday to discuss natural gas issues. Tom Marino met with about a dozen residents from across Susquehanna County who say they have been adversely affected by natural gas drilling. "I'm not here for political reasons. I'm here because I was asked to be here," Mr. Marino told the group as they gathered around tables at the Dimock Baptist Church - a few hundred yards from Democratic Rep. Chris Carney's home. For more than 90 minutes, Mr. Marino listened to residents describe what has happened to their lives since natural gas companies moved into the Marcellus Shale region. Mr. Marino said his main purpose at the meeting was to get information. By the end of the session, Mr. Marino said he has a lot to learn."

WILKES-BARRE TIMES-LEADER

Gas drilling critics sue over report on security At issue is a bulletin portraying Marcellus Shale protesters as possible terrorist threats to the natural gas industry. SCRANTON -- The Kingston-based Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition has filed a federal lawsuit against Pennsylvania's Homeland Security director and others for including the organization in an anti-terrorism bulletin that was distributed to the natural gas industry and others. The

suit, filed Monday in federal court in Scranton, offers a stinging rebuke to Homeland Security Director James F. Powers Jr. and the Institute of Terrorism Research and Response, the Philadelphia-based company that prepared an intelligence bulletin that depicted peaceful protesters concerned about the environmental impact of Marcellus Shale gas drilling as potential terrorist threats to the industry.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Pa. nursing home testing for Legionnaires' diseaseERIE, Pa. (AP) — Residents of a northwestern Pennsylvania nursing home are being tested for Legionnaires' disease after a patient was diagnosed with the illness last week. The Erie Times-News reports that 17 patients and four employees of Golden Living Center-Walnut Creek had tested negative as of noon Monday. Leonard Quimby is director of operations for the facility in Millcreek Township. He says legionella bacteria was found in the center's water on Friday.

WHYY (blog)

The Shale Game Part 2: WaterNatural gas has been trapped deep below the surface of Pennsylvania for eons. But only in the past two years has the industry begun in earnest to tap the rich gas reserves of the Marcellus Shale — a layer of rock thousands of feet down that runs from New York to West Virginia. Gas companies sunk nine hundred wells into the Pennsylvania Marcellus this year. With this new area in play, residents have a lot of questions. The most frequently asked: what will be the impact on their water. In part two of our series *The Shale Game*, WHYY's health and science reporter Kerry Grens searches for the answer.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

About 100 arrested in mountaintop mining protest WASHINGTON -- About 100 people were arrested Monday outside the White House while protesting against mountaintop removal mining, temporarily trading their freedom for a chance to highlight what they consider an environmental calamity. . The protesters, arrested after refusing orders from U.S. Park Police to leave the sidewalk on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, were taken to a waiting city bus.

Post Carbon : 'Plan B' for saving the planet: geoengineering People are beginning to talk about whether we'll need to engineer the climate to avert dangerous climate change. But that doesn't mean they know exactly how to do it. Some of the world's experts debated the question at an event Monday hosted by Arizona State University, the New America Foundation and Slate magazine in an event titled, "Geoengineering: The Horrifying Idea Whose Time Has Come?" No one could offer a simple answer on how humans could manipulate the world's weather in order to counteract the greenhouse gases we emit into the atmosphere each year. But they did offer some ideas on how to go about it: namely, by doing some basic research.

Murky waters for 'boat people' Living on the water in the District of Columbia isn't easy.

There's only one legal place to do it - along the Southwest waterfront stretching from Fort McNair to the Tidal Basin - and it requires patience, a working knowledge of equipment like bilge pumps and thru-hulls, and a seafarer's stomach. Even so, the 150 or so "live-aboard" residents of the Gangplank Marina, a mass of floating fiberglass and wood and cramped quarters overlooking the Washington Channel, don't want to leave. But their future is murky: Will they be able to stay or will they have to move as the Southwest waterfront undergoes a once-in-a-lifetime transformation?

Cancer risk can be cut with good habits such as exercise and healthful eating
... there are a number of common-sense ways to reduce your risk of getting certain kinds of cancer. No guarantees, but there are steps you can take now to improve your odds. [See Sun Exposure, Talcum, Radon, Pesticides, Cellphones...].

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

EPA honors seven Lincoln County schools

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is praising seven Lincoln County schools for what it calls superior energy efficiency. The agency said Monday that the schools have been awarded the Energy Star building label for their efforts. The Energy Star is a program that aims to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gases through efficiency.

Massey foremen cited at Upper Big Branch Mine

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- In the three years prior to the Upper Big Branch Mine Disaster, three Massey Energy mine managers with ties to the operation were personally cited by state inspectors for allegedly faking safety examinations and ordering miners to work in unsafe conditions, according to state records obtained Monday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

State volunteers sought for manganese study <> VIENNA, W.Va. -- Researchers plan to seek volunteers in Wood County for an ongoing study of airborne manganese's health effects on children in the Mid-Ohio Valley. The multiyear study is funded by the National Institutes of Health. The Parkersburg News reports that researchers are testing about 130 7-year-old to 8-year-old children from Washington County, Ohio. The results are compared with a sample of children in Cambridge, Ohio.

PARKERSBURG NEWS

Council to accept \$200K federal grant PARKERSBURG - A federal grant to assess and identify potential contamination from a former marble plant may eventually lead to development. Tonight city council will consider a resolution authorizing Mayor Bob Newell to accept a \$200,000 hazardous substance Brownfield assessment grant from the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Planning Director Rickie Yeager said the money will be used for phase I and II assessment of the former Vitro Agate site."Phase I and II will tell us what is there and then give us a plan as to how to clean it up."Yeager said cleanup would not be performed by the city, but by the landowner."It will be up to him to decide what to do," Yeager said.In addition to the \$200,000 grant, Yeager said the city has been awarded a \$12,000 focus grant from the Benedum Foundation and the Brownfield Assistance Grant. Yeager said the money will be used to develop concepts of use for the property, as well as economic study.

DOMINION-POST

Water groups meet to discuss area waterways Sept. 28--How to balance water quality against the economic interests of coal and gas extraction is a tricky affair, and a panel of local water resource advocates looked at possible solutions Monday night. It was the fall meeting of the Corps of Engineers and River Recreational Users Summit at the Morgantown Airport. The Pittsburgh District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees the watershed basins in a 26,000-square-mile area including parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Its territory includes the Upper Monongahela, which is fed by local waterways such as **Dunkard Creek** and Scotts Run.

WHEELING NEWS REGISER

Well Fire Out

CAMERON - That familiar flame rising up from Chesapeake Energy's natural gas well on Pleasants Ridge in Marshall County is finally extinguished.Now it will be up to Chesapeake and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection officials to figure out just what went wrong when the Marcellus Shale shaft ignited at 6:50 a.m. Sept. 19. According to information provided by Chesapeake Director of Corporate Development Stacey Brodak, well control specialists Boots and Coots shut and secured the 6H well shortly after 11 a.m. Monday, thereby dousing the flame that could be seen rising above the ridge for more than a week.

DELAWARE

DELAWARE WAVE

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Development and the U.S. Department of Transportation has worked toward creating sustainable communities."The goal is not to subsidize sprawl," she said. While Holman said population has remained stable in the U.S. in recent decades, it has consumed more and more land.

A weekend dedicated to the coastLEWES -- Lewes Martime Weekend is a two-day event celebrating the coast.Coast Day started as an open house for the College of Earth, Ocean and Environment and organizers say that the event has grown into much more in the 34 years since it began. Around 15 years ago, the Lewes Chamber of Commerce wanted to extend the popular event to another day."It is a major draw in Southern Delaware," said Joe Farrell, marine advisory service agent. "It brings in about 10,000-12,000 people on a Sunday." The event is packed with many events for foodies, environmental-ists and families.

MARYLAND



BALTIMORE SUN

Our View: Tough federal loveThe EPA's ambitious plans for Chesapeake Bay cleanup — and failing grades to states — suggest federal government is so far willing to do the dirty work Like a good teacher refusing to grade on a curve, the U.S. Environment Protection Agency handed out some failing grades last week to Chesapeake Bay states whose cleanup plans are woefully inadequate. Hallelujah. If the EPA's heightened involvement in the Chesapeake Bay is going to turn the tide on water quality, the agency can't be seen backing down now. The low scores given to Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia should send a message that the environmental excuses of the past are the equivalent of dogs eating homework. ...

Blog: Activists to rally for Bay cleanup

(yesterday) Environmental activists say they expect hundreds for a Chesapeake Bay cleanup rally Tuesday evening at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. With federal and state officials mulling potentially costly and controversial new strategies for accelerating the bay restoration effort, activists hope to demonstrate public support for an aggressive cleanup schedule. Speakers include city officials, heads of the National Aquarium and Maryland Science Center, the Waterfront Partnership, a business and civic group, as well as leaders of several environmental groups, including the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice. About 250 people have responded online that they intend to attend, said Tommy Landers, policy advocate for Environment Maryland, one of the groups sponsoring the rally.

Bedbugs prompt \$500,000 suit A Howard County couple are suing the owners of their apartment complex for half a million dollars, claiming bedbugs infiltrated their apartment, covering them and their toddler daughter with dozens of itchy welts and

causing "significant emotional distress."

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

OUR VIEW Md. Farm Bureau's unwise secrecy The Maryland Farm Bureau wants to reassure you that Maryland's farms obey their nutrient management plans, preventing fertilizers from polluting our water. They want you to know state agriculture officials inspect the farms to make sure. But they also don't think you deserve to see proof those assertions are true. You should just take their word for it. Here's the setup. An environmental watchdog group, Waterkeeper Alliance, asked the Department of Agriculture for information about farm inspections and the nutrient management plan summaries every farm of any size must give the department each year. State officials seemed to think they had an obligation to hand over some documents in response, although they planned to black out any lines identifying farmers' names, addresses and so on. That's because farmers argued releasing such information would reveal confidential business secrets, harming them. Still, state officials dragged their feet, taking several months to consider a public records request that should have been satisfied in 30 days.

Officials mapping out spots for wind farms OCEAN CITY -- State officials say they've narrowed down the geographical area where a proposed 200-turbine wind farm could be built off the Maryland coastline, and are moving quickly through on the federal government's lengthy permitting process. Plans for a wind farm about 12 miles off the Worcester County coastline are in their infancy, and are years from being green-lit at the federal level. Representatives from state agencies, private enterprise and environmental advocacy groups addressed the project, still in the earliest of planning stages, at a town hall-style meeting held at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church. About 70 people attended.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Environmentalists to rally at aquarium for bay BALTIMORE (AP) — Organizers of a rally for the Chesapeake Bay say hundreds are expected to turn out at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Environment Maryland says the rally Tuesday evening is being held to call on state leaders to fully support Maryland's proposed bay restoration strategy. Chesapeake Bay Foundation spokesman Tom Zolper says organizers want to show ordinary Marylanders support strong efforts to reduce water pollution. Maryland, the District of Columbia and the five other states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed submitted their plans to the federal Environmental Protection Agency earlier this month. On Friday, the EPA said the Maryland and DC plans represent a strong start, but the federal agency was critical of the five other plans.

FREDERICK NEWS POST

Stink bug infestation goes beyond farmers The onslaught of stink bugs continues. Local farmers have lost crops to the insects, but the devastation goes beyond the farm. The security system for the Damascus Heritage Society museum was triggered recently when a swarm of bugs flew in front of the motion detector. Thousands of the shield-shaped bugs kept Jefferson woodworker Stephen Hebert out of his shop Sunday. But Hebert was not

about to let the insects keep him away from work for long. He used an industrial shop vacuum to suck up the pests. But his method came with a price.

<>

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Rain doesn't make much of a dent in region's drought

If we don't see continued rain, we may be right back where we were in a few days, said Bill Hayden, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection.

<>

DAILY PRESS

Bay cleanup questioned

Two lawmakers asked Congressional investigators Monday to determine how reliable the science is behind the latest Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. The request, made by U.S. Reps. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., and Tim Holden, D-Pa., calls into question the model used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to estimate how much pollution enters the bay. "Before expanding the federal investment in this effort, we need to be sure taxpayer dollars are being spent in the most efficient way if Bay water quality is to improve," Holden said in a press release. The Chesapeake's 64,000-square-mile watershed is too large to regularly monitor pollution. Instead, the EPA plugs varied information, such as land use and water temperature, into a formula — or model — that provides an estimate. Scientists say the model isn't perfect, but it is the best available science and is reliable enough to make policy decisions.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Allen: Third party needed in oil spill response <>

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration's repeated low estimates of the huge BP oil spill undermined public confidence in the government's entire cleanup effort, leaders of a White House-appointed commission declared at an investigatory hearing Monday. One likened the mistakes to Custer's disastrous decisions at Little Big Horn.

TVA inspector: Poor management led to Tenn. spill CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. -- Poor coal ash control practices and the Tennessee Valley Authority management culture led to the huge December 2008 spill on the Emory River in East Tennessee, the utility's inspector general said in a report released Monday. The report on the inspector general's website describes the spill of sludge laden with selenium, mercury and arsenic as "one of the largest environmental disasters in U.S. history."

New Calif. law limits toxic cadmium in jewelry LOS ANGELES -- California became the largest state to limit the toxic metal cadmium in children's jewelry on Monday, effectively creating a new national standard ahead of promised federal action.

P&G sets new **environmental** goals CINCINNATI (AP) — The world's largest consumer product maker announced Monday that it has set ambitious long-term targets for cutting the waste it produces and improving its energy efficiency. Procter & Gamble said it eventually will use only renewable energy to power its factories and only recycled or renewable materials to make and package its products.